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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

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22 February 1984 -

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Hal Ford
National Intelligence Officer At Large

SUBJECT: SIG Meeting on the Recently Completed World Administrative
Radio Conference for High Frequency Broadcasting (WARC-HF)

1. The following is for information. I confine my remarks to items of interest to CIA. More details appear in State's attached brief summary of the conference.

2. Ambassador Leonard Marks, who chaired the US delegation to the WARC-HF, briefed the SIG yesterday on its outcome. According to Marks:

- "We came home with everything we wanted, and more."
- The Third World countries did not as expected vote as a bloc but were divided on many scores, and certain of their representatives at the conference gave US-backed issues considerable support.
- A consideration which definitely helped explain the moderate Third World behavior at the conference was the recent US departure from UNESCO.
- The conference reached agreement to study the impact of radio jamming, the first time the ITU has ever so treated this subject. The ITU study will of necessity identify the USSR as the principal source of interference caused by jamming.
- The Soviet delegates were surprisingly quiet and did not block the jamming agreement. Marks: this was doubtless due in part to the fact that conference issues were kept at the technical level.

3. Remaining problems, according to Marks:

- All the agreements reached are purely provisional, and may be modified or cancelled when the second half of this WARC-HF conference takes place, now scheduled for October 1986.

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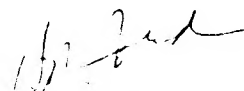
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-- The Soviets and Third World countries may become less cooperative than they were at the conference, especially as they come to realize that certain of the provisional agreements reached favor the US -- with 45 percent of its HF transmitters located overseas -- far more than they do the USSR (in Cuba only).

4. Comment: Also, the Soviets may not care too much even if the ITU study should name them as the principal source of HF interference.


Hal Ford

Attachment:
As stated

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HIGH FREQUENCY BROADCASTING

The purpose of the Conference was to develop equitable procedures for a more efficient use of the high frequency broadcasting bands by all countries.

The Conference is being held in two sessions, with the second session scheduled for August-September 1986. The purpose of this first session was to make recommendations on effective planning methods. The second session is charged with developing regulations for the specific implementation of an agreed-upon planning method.

Issues:

Some of the major issues confronting this Conference included:

1. Short term versus long term planning, with major broadcasters preferring short term planning for both programming and technical reasons.
2. Jamming, the deliberate creation of harmful interference is the major factor in causing congestion in the shortwave broadcasting bands.
3. Transition to single-sideband operation. This method of operation would provide a 35 to 40 percent increase in available shortwave spectrum. However, we see this transition as being lengthy in time, and costly.
4. Transmitter power limitations, multiple Frequency Broadcasts and Protection Ratios are a few of the many technical issues considered for inclusion in a planning method.

Objectives:

Consistent with the policy guidance of NSDD-45 and the approved Delegation Scope Paper the U.S. established the following major objectives. These were reflected in our ITU submission for the first session of HF WARC. They included:

1. Selection, by the Conference, of technical characteristics that are in conformance with current or future U.S. broadcasting operations,

2. Selection, by the Conference, of a flexible, short-term planning method, and
3. Prevention of adoption, by the Conference, of any technical characteristics, procedures, rules or planning methods that would restrict U.S. anti-jamming counter measures.

Results:

In terms of overall U.S. objectives the Conference was a success, we accomplished much more than just "damage control". However this was not a win-or-lose negotiation as such. Significant progress was made towards a plan which can ease the problems associated with the limited broadcast spectrum.

No U.S. objectives were adversely affected by the session's decisions. On the positive side, the session's major decisions were all in line with U.S. goals:

1. A flexible framework for planning methods to be considered by the second session.
2. Effective technical standards to be adopted for any planning system developed by the second session.
3. A testing and evaluation project between the session designed to measure objectively the effectiveness of a range of planning options.
4. A plan for monitoring the effects of jamming on high-frequency broadcasting congestion - the first time that this issue has been dealt with positively by an ITU Conference.

It is important to note that this first session did not definitely agree to a single planning method. Many developing countries came to the Conference favoring adoption of a single planning method. While they differed among themselves on the details of such a method, there was general support for a method which would assign shortwave broadcasting frequencies under a rigid system which would have adversely affected the U.S. and other major international broadcasters. Instead, the Conference agreed to test a planning method, developed largely by the LDC's, to determine its feasibility in meeting their minimum broadcasting needs without adversely affecting the needs of the large broadcasters.

This session of the HF-WARC Conference was unique in that, for the first time the ITU not only recognized jamming as a global problem, but also identified actual steps to do something about it.

The Conference adopted a statement in the document on planning methods which explicitly calls for consideration of means of providing relief, in the form of alternative frequencies, for the countries whose broadcast transmissions are affected by jamming.

The Conference also approved a French-Canadian resolution which calls on countries which transmit HF broadcasts "out of band" (i.e. on frequencies not allocated to broadcasting) to cease such operations. This relates to jamming since the Soviet Union conducts considerable shortwave broadcasting which has the effect of causing harmful interference to other countries.

Among additional points it should be noted that there was minimal consideration of extraneous political issues. Credentials for Israel, for example, did not become an issue. The only formal reservation the U.S. made was in response to the Cuban condemnation of U.S. broadcasting to Cuba and Radio Marti.

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